Safai Karamcharies 1994-95 have recommended the following:—

(1) to clarify the definition of Scavengers to all State Govts/U.T. Administration for better coverage of the Rehabilitation programme for the Scavengers.

(2) to adopt a cluster approach in the training and rehabilitation programme.

(3) More Public and Private bodies be involved for imparting training under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents. Wherever requisite training facilities are available with Government Organisations such facilities be fully utilised.

(4) sanctioning of project costs should be properly implemented i.e. upto Rs. 50,000/-.

(5) to take measures to avoid delay on part of Central Government in release of funds to the State Governments.

(6) to streamline disbursement of loans by Banks.

(7) to form group projects or registered coopeative society of Safai Karamcharies which could be rendered assistance.

(8) betterment of service conditions for Safai Karamcharies by State Govts./U.T. Administration.

(9) speeding up of conversion of dry latrines into low cost water borne flush latrines by Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment.

(10) better education opportunities for the students belonging to Safai Karamcharies.

Educated Unemployed Youth in Urban Areas

2188. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of educated unemployed youths in urban areas is increasing in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether in view of the economic liberalisation Government propose to take up the matter with private sector to create further employment opportunities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The number of educated (Matric & above) Job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, who were on the live register of employment exchanges in the country has shown a marginal increase during the period 1991—1993 (latest available).

(b) and (c) Employment is a thrust area of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Plan envisages a strategy for accelerated growth of productive employment opportunities in the country, based on faster growth of employment intensive sectors, sub-sectors and activities which would generate additional employment opportunities both in public and private sectors of the economy.

Food stock with FCI

2189. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether food stock with the FCI has fallen and what are the details of the stock for the last 3 years;

(b) whether the off-take of the wheat and rice is reduced;

(c) if so, the reason, therefor; and

(d) the details of the supply of rice, wheat and sugar to Kerala for the distribution through PDS for the last 3 years?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool continues to be comfortable and above the minimum level prescribed as per the buffer norms. The Stock position of foodgrains (Wheat and Rice) as on Ist July during the last 3 years against the

minimum buffer norms is indicated below:—

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Minimum Buffer norms on Ist July	Actual Stock (P)
1994	22.3	30.7
1995	22.3	35.6
1996	22.3	27.3

(P) : Provisional

(b) and (c) The Offtake of Wheat and Rice for Public Distribution System during the last three years is indicated below:—

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Offtake (P)
1993-94	15.2
1994-95	13.3
1995-96	14.8

(P) : Provisional

The fluctuation in the offtake during last three years was mainly due to normal production of foodgrains and adequate local availability.

(d) Allotment and Offtake of Wheat and Rice to Kerala during last three years is as under:—

(In lakh Tonnes)

Year	Wheat (P)		Rice (P)	
	A	O	A	O
1993-94	3.50	3.15	18.25	15.78
1994-95	4.45	3.87	18.00	11.18
1995-96	5.85	5.57	18.00	11.70

(P) : Provisional

A : Allotment

O : Offtake

Levy sugar allotted during the last three years to state of Kerala is as under:—

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Total Allocation
1993	1.54
1994	1.49
1995	1.51

Increasing the Prices of Rationed Commodities in Andhra Pradesh

2190. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh was forced to increase the price of rice from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3.50 per Kg.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) names of other States where rice and wheat is supplied to the people through fair price shops at subsidised rates;

(d) whether these schemes had become popular in these States and now the people have opposed the move of increasing the prices;

(e) whether Central Government are considering to help these States in the form of subsidy so that these States continue these schemes; and

(f) if not, the main reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that the rate of rice being supplied to white card holders has been increased from Rs. 2/- to Rs. 3.50 per kg. w.e.f. 1.8.96.

(c) to (f) The Central Government